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The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Trump freezing US foreign aid could give China opening on the world stage

WASHINGTON. President Donald Trump's restrictions on foreign aid and targeting of a key agency funding programs around the world may be offering an opening to America's biggest adversary—China. From the dismantling of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) to quitting international groups, Trump's drastic "America First" moves have raised concerns among some lawmakers and experts about whether the US is ceding global influence to its rivals, especially at a time when Washington is fretting over Beijing's growing clout at the cost to American interests. Foreign assistance offered the US a source of "soft power"—allowing it to cultivate goodwill, build alliances and counter adversaries in a bid to shore up national security without having to dispatch troops, weapons or other more coercive measures.

In Cambodia, the contrast could not be sharper than China sending \$4.4 million to support demining operations, as Trump halted a \$6.3 million grant from the State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement partly meant to clear "US-origin unexploded ordnances as the remnants of war."

Administration officials say it's past time to review how America spends money abroad. Asked if the US was giving China and Russia an opening for greater global influence, national security adviser Mike Waltz denied that, telling NBC's "Meet the Press" recently that "all too often, these missions and these programs ... are not in line with strategic US interests like pushing back on China." In Panama, the Trump administration got the government to quit the Belt and Road Initiative, Beijing's flagship overseas development program, prompting condemnation from China.

What it means for the US to step back

Experts and lawmakers disagree on the impact of the US taking a step back from foreign aid. Lawsuits are challenging the administration's freeze on foreign assistance and moves against USAID, with temporary holds on some of those efforts.

Ice Loss From World's Glaciers Has Accelerated Over Past Decade: Scientists

Paris, France. Ice loss from the world's glaciers has accelerated over the past decade, scientists said on Wednesday, warning that melting may be faster than previously expected in the coming years and drive sea levels higher. The world's glaciers, which are important climate regulators and hold freshwater resources for billions, are rapidly melting as the world warms. In a first-of-its-kind global assessment, an international team of researchers found a sharp increase in melting over the past decade, with around 36 percent more ice lost in the 2012 to 2023 period than in the years from 2000 to 2011. On average some 273 billion tonnes of ice are being lost per year -- equivalent to the world population's water consumption for 30 years, they said. The findings are "shocking" if not altogether surprising as global temperatures rise with humanity's greenhouse gas emissions, said Michael Zemp, a professor at the University of Zurich, who was a co-author of the assessment published in the journal Nature. Overall, researchers found that the world's glaciers have lost around five percent of their volume since the turn of the century, with wide regional differences ranging from a two-percent loss in Antarctica to up to 40 percent in the European Alps. Zemp said that regions with smaller glaciers are losing them faster, and many "will not survive the present century." The research -- coordinated by the World Glacier Monitoring Service (WGMS), the University of Edinburgh and research group Earthwave -- was an effort to bring together field and satellite measurements to create a "reference estimate" for tracking ice loss.

Zemp, who leads the WGMS, said the team's observations and recent modelling studies suggest that glacier melt this century will be faster than projected in the most recent assessment by United Nations IPCC climate experts.

US Declares 8 Drug Cartels, Criminal Gangs As 'Global Terrorist' Groups

Washington, United States. The United States is designating Venezuela's Tren de Aragua, Mexico's Sinaloa Cartel and six other drug trafficking groups with Latin American roots as "global terrorist" organisations, according to a federal notice Wednesday. The move by President Donald Trump's administration is the latest step in his intensifying crackdown on gang members in the United States, and his efforts to remove undocumented or criminal immigrants from the country. Trump signed an executive order on January 20, his first day back in the White House, creating a process for such a designation, saying that the cartels "constitute a national-security threat beyond that posed by traditional organized crime." The terrorist designation expands the US government's ability to combat such groups. Mexico fears that the United States will use the designation as an excuse to intervene in its territory against the cartels, as some Republican lawmakers have been calling for.

The groups targeted include the international crime gang MS-13, with roots in El Salvador, as well as Mexican syndicates the Gulf Cartel, the Jalisco New Generation Cartel, the Northeast Cartel, the New Michoacan Family and the United Cartel.

A public notice by Secretary of State Marco Rubio states that those organizations designated are "foreign persons that have committed or have attempted to commit... acts of terrorism that threaten the security of United States nationals or the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States."

On his first day back in office last month, Trump declared a national emergency at the southern US border and vowed to deport "millions and millions" of migrants.

German voters prepare to elect a new parliament. Here's what to expect on and after election day

BERLIN. German voters go to the polls Sunday to elect a new parliament that will determine how the country is run for the next four years. Europe's biggest economy is the 27-nation European Union's most populous nation and a leading member of NATO, as well as the second-biggest weapons supplier to Ukraine, after the United States, following Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022. Germany's next government will be central to Europe's response to an assertive new US administration.

Here's a look at what to expect for Sunday and beyond.

What happens on election day?

Polls are due to open at 8 a.m. and close at 6 p.m.. Germans can also vote by postal ballot, but their ballot must arrive by the time polling stations close on election day to be counted. Exit polls will come and vote-counting will begin immediately after



voting ends, and the general picture of the outcome should be clear very quickly. A final official result is expected early Monday.

Who are the contenders?

Four candidates are running to be Germany's next leader: incumbent Chancellor Olaf Scholz, of the center-left Social

Democrats; Friedrich Merz, the candidate of the mainstream conservative Christian Democratic Union party; current Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck, of the environmentalist Greens; and Alice Weidel, of the far-right neo-Nazi, anti-immigration Alternative for Germany, or AfD. Preelection polls have put Merz's Union bloc in the lead with support of about 30%, ahead of AfD, with around 20%. Scholz's Social Democrats and Habeck's Greens are further back.

Merz is favored to replace Scholz as chancellor, but it's not yet clear what governing coalitions will be possible after the election. How easy it is to form a government may depend in part on how many parties are in the new parliament. Opinion polls show three parties hovering around the 5% of the vote needed to win seats.

2 dead after two small planes collide midair in Arizona

World. A midair collision involving two small planes in southern Arizona killed at least two people Wednesday morning, authorities said. Federal air-safety investigators said two people were on board each plane as they collided near Marana Regional Airport on the outskirts of Tucson.

One plane landed uneventfully with the other hitting the ground near a runway and catching fire, the National Transportation Safety Board said, based on preliminary information before its investigators had arrived. The Marana Police Department confirmed two deaths after responding to the crash. The Associated Press left a message with a police spokesperson seeking additional details. Last week in Arizona, one of two pilots died on a private jet owned by Motley Crue



singer Vince Neil after the aircraft veered off a runway in Scottsdale and hit a business jet. Four major aviation disasters have occurred in North America in the last month. The most recent involved a Delta jet that flipped on its roof while landing in Toronto and the deadly crash of a commuter plane in Alaska.

In late January, 67 people aboard an American Airlines passenger were

killed when an Army helicopter collided with it in Washington, DC, marking the United States' deadliest aviation disaster since 2001.

Just a day later, a medical transport jet with a child patient, her mother and four others aboard crashed into a Philadelphia neighborhood on January 31, exploding in a fireball that engulfed several homes. That crash killed seven people, including all those aboard, and injured 19 others.

The airport in Marana has two intersecting runways but operates without an air traffic control tower. A multimillion-dollar project was underway to build a tower but delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic pushed back construction. Tens of thousands of flights arrive and depart from the airport annually.

Hamas to return four Israeli bodies, including a mother and her two young children

KHAN YOUNIS. Hamas is set to return the bodies of four Israeli hostages on Thursday, including a mother and her two children who have long been feared dead and had come to embody the nation's agony following the Oct. 7, 2023, attack. The remains to be released from the Gaza Strip are of Shiri Bibas and her two children, Ariel and Kfir. Kfir was the youngest captive taken that day. Hamas has said all three were killed in an Israeli airstrike early in the war. The militant group also plans to release the body of Oded Lifshitz, who was 83 when he was abducted.

"The heart of an entire nation breaks," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday in anticipation of the bodies being returned to Israel.

Hundreds of people, mostly masked Hamas fighters, gathered at the handover site on the outskirts of the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, where large banners had been set up, including one showing an image of rows of coffins draped in Israeli flags.

Israelis have celebrated the return of 24 living hostages in recent weeks under a tenuous ceasefire that paused over 15 months of war. But the handover on Thursday will provide a grim reminder of those who died in captivity as the talks leading up to the truce dragged on for over a year. It could also provide impetus for negotiations on the second

stage of the ceasefire that have hardly begun. The first phase is set to end at the beginning of March. Infant was the youngest taken hostage.

Kfir Bibas was just 9 months old, a red-headed infant with a toothless smile, when militants stormed into the family's home on Oct. 7, 2023. His brother Ariel was 4. Video shot that day showed a terrified Shiri swaddling the



two boys as militants led them into Gaza. Her husband, Yarden Bibas, was taken separately and released this month after 16 months in captivity.

Relatives in Israel have clung to hope, marking Kfir's first and second birthdays and his brother's fifth. The Bibas family said in a statement Wednesday that it would wait for "identification procedures" before

acknowledging that their loved ones were dead. Supporters throughout Israel have worn orange in solidarity with the family—a reference to two boys' red hair—and a popular children's song was written in their honor.

Like the Bibas family, Oded Lifshitz was abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz, along with his wife Yocheved, who was freed during a weeklong ceasefire in November 2023. Oded was a journalist who campaigned for the recognition of Palestinian rights and peace between Arabs and Jews.

Hamas-led militants abducted 251 hostages, including some 30 children, in the Oct. 7 attack, in which they also killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians. More than half the hostages, and most of the women and children, have been released in ceasefire agreements or other deals. Israeli forces have rescued eight and have recovered dozens of bodies of people killed in the initial attack or who died in captivity.

It's not clear if the ceasefire will last. Hamas is set to free six living hostages on Saturday in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, and says it will release four more bodies next week, completing the ceasefire's first phase. That will leave the militants with some 60 hostages, all men, around half of whom are believed to be dead.

Donald Trump's secret peace deal with Russia: What it means for Ukraine

World. US President Donald Trump is pushing for a peace deal with Russia, a move that could significantly impact the ongoing war in Ukraine. However, European leaders and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky have reportedly been left out of discussions, raising concerns over the nature of the proposed agreement.

While details not clear, Trump's last week phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin has signaled the beginning of negotiations. Meanwhile, members of Trump's cabinet, currently in Saudi Arabia, have given mixed signals on the U.S. position. Trump has made it clear: He wants to end the war. And, if that means sidelining Zelensky and cutting a deal directly with Vladimir Putin — so be it.

Key Points of Trump's Peace Plan

According to sources close to Trump's inner circle, the proposed agreement could result in major changes for Ukraine and Europe. The most significant aspects of the deal include:

1. Ukraine ceding territory to Russia

One of the main conditions being considered is Ukraine giving up control of large territories occupied by Russia since 2014. This could include regions currently contested in the war.

2. A Demilitarized Zone between Russia and Ukraine

The plan proposes the creation of a demilitarized zone, which would be monitored by European peacekeepers which may include British troops. No NATO forces.

3. Blocking Ukraine's NATO membership The agreement may also involve blocking Ukraine from joining NATO, a move that could leave Ukraine vulnerable to future military threats.

4. A US-Ukraine trade agreement

A massive trade deal between Ukraine and the US, where America provides security, but in return, gets control over Ukraine's vast mineral wealth, particularly lithium and other valuable resources.

The financial factor: Ukraine paying for US military aid? One of the most controversial

aspects of the proposal involves Ukraine compensating the U.S. for years of military aid. Trump has floated the idea that Ukraine should hand over up to \$500 billion worth



of its mineral reserves to the US as repayment. Ukraine is home to \$12 trillion worth of natural resources — including lithium, a mineral vital for modern technology. However, President Zelensky has strongly opposed the idea, viewing it as an unfair demand.

Europe's Response: Concerns over security and stability

European leaders are growing uneasy. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has pledged £3 billion annually for Ukraine until 2030, with discussions about British and French troops possibly patrolling a future ceasefire zone. However, without U.S. backing, European efforts might not be enough to deter further Russian aggression. America holds the key to Ukraine's long-term security. If Trump withdraws US support, Ukraine could be left in limbo — frozen in conflict, neither fully at war nor at peace.

What's next for Ukraine?

Best-Case Scenario: A stable ceasefire, enforced by European peacekeepers, preventing Russia from further advancing westward. Worst-Case Scenario: A fractured Ukraine, with Russia consolidating power in occupied territories and potentially pushing further into Ukrainian land in the future.

Rare Planetary Alignment Coincides with Maha Kumbh 2025

Prayagraj: As Maha Kumbh 2025 approaches its conclusion, a rare celestial event is captivating skywatchers in India, with all seven planets of the solar system—Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune—visible from Earth. This planetary alignment adds a unique dimension to the festival, with many believing such cosmic events enhance spiritual energies. The alignment, which began in January 2025 with Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune visible, will reach its peak in February as Mercury joins the lineup. The alignment will culminate on February 28, 2025, when all seven planets align on one side of the Sun. While the term "planetary alignment" is commonly used, it generally refers to multiple planets appearing together in the night sky. The planets will be visible along the ecliptic, the appar-



ent path of the Sun, as their orbits lie roughly in the same plane. Five planets—Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn—will be visible to the naked eye, while Uranus and Neptune will require binoculars or telescopes. The best time to view this alignment

will be during twilight hours, either after sunset or before sunrise. Astronomers predict a similar event in mid-August 2025, when six planets will be visible in the morning sky. Maha Kumbh, held every four years in Haridwar, Ujjain, and Nashik, and every

12 years in Prayagraj, draws millions of devotees who believe bathing in the sacred rivers during this period brings spiritual liberation. The festival's timing is closely tied to astronomical events, particularly the orbit of Jupiter, which influences the Kumbh Mela dates.

Delhi HC Seeks Government Response on Subramanian Swamy's Citizenship Complaint Against Rahul

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre to inform the court about the steps taken regarding BJP leader Subramanian Swamy's 2019 complaint alleging Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's dual citizenship. Swamy had raised concerns that Gandhi had "voluntarily disclosed" his British nationality to the UK government, which he claimed violated Article 9 of the Indian Constitution and the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955. Swamy's complaint was submitted to the Union Home Ministry in August 2019, but he claimed he had not received any response despite multiple representations. A bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyay and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela asked Additional Solicitor

General Chetan Sharma to seek instructions on the status of the matter. The court clarified that Swamy's plea is not seeking a decision on the substantive issue but only requests a response to his representation. The next hearing has been scheduled for March 26. Swamy's plea seeks action from the home ministry on his complaint, which asks for the cancellation of Gandhi's citizenship. He noted that while a show-cause notice had been issued to Gandhi, no further action had been taken. Previously, the court had expressed concerns about hearing Swamy's plea due to a similar petition pending in the Allahabad High Court, which calls for a CBI probe into Gandhi's citizenship.

CCL hosts Free Health Camp in Ichapidhi Village



Ranchi: CCL Jan Arogya Kendra Gandhinagar conducted a free health checkup camp in Ichapidhi village on February 20, 2025, focusing on blood pressure and diabetes screenings. The camp saw the participation of 135 people, who received free checkups and medical advice from specialist doctors. Services included hemoglobin, blood sugar, and hypertension tests, with free medicines provided to the participants. CCL regularly organizes such health camps to ensure better healthcare facilities for its stakeholders and the community. The initiative aims to support the health needs of the underserved population. The camp was successfully organized with the efforts of Dr. Ratnesh Jain, CMS, CCL, Dr. Preeti Tigga, CMO and CSR Incharge, along with Dr. Rajni Deepa Kujur, Dr. Deepali, Dr. Shilpi Jha, Dr. Veena Singh, Munna Kumar Singh, Kamlesh Pandit, Harman, and the entire paramedical team. Their dedication played a crucial role in the camp's success.

Mithila Sanskritik Parishad Plans Vidyapati Smriti Parv Samaroh in April, Fagua Milan on 12 March



Bokaro: The new executive of the Mithila Sanskritik Parishad held its first meeting on Wednesday at the Vidyapati Auditorium of Mithila Academy Public School in Sector 4. The meeting, chaired by President Jaiprakash Chaudhary and conducted by General Secretary Neeraj Chaudhary, outlined upcoming programs, including the Holi Milan Samaroh and the Vidyapati Smriti Parv Samaroh. A grand Holi Milan Samaroh will be held at Mithila Academy Public School on March 12, featuring Abir-Gulaal and Fagua songs. A team led by Avinash Kumar Jha was formed to ensure the success of the event. The Parishad also decided to publish a calendar with Panchang featuring notable achievements and activities of the organization. Additionally, the Vidyapati Smriti Parv Samaroh, the council's most significant annual event, will be held in April with cultural programs from local and invited artists. The meeting emphasized unity, social empowerment, and an ongoing membership campaign. Besides others, Rajendra Kumar, KC Jha, Vijay Kumar Jha, PK Jha 'Chandan', Dilip Kumar Jha, Mihir Mohan Thakur, Mihir Kumar Jha (Raju), Pradeep Kumar, Arun Pathak, Prakash Jha, Avinash Kumar Jha, Sudip Kumar Thakur, Sushil Kumar Jha, Ganesh Jha, Anand Narayan Mishra, Vivekanand Jha, Govind Kumar Jha, Roshan Kumar Tarun etc were present in the meeting.

Satya Hospital, Kanpur to host Arthritis Treatment Camp

by Sunil Bajapi

Kanpur: To address the growing arthritis and joint pain problem, Satya Hospital in Barra 6 will host a special treatment camp on March 1 and 15, 2025. Led by renowned orthopedic specialist Dr. AK Agarwal, in collaboration with Dr. AG Patel from Lucknow, the camp will offer relief from joint pain, swelling, and stiffness from 4 to 6 pm. All cashless cards, including Ayushman Bharat, will be accepted. Dr. Agarwal, who has treated over 5000 patients without surgery, emphasized that knee and arthritis issues can often be managed through advanced medical techniques, injections, and non-surgical methods. He noted that many patients can avoid knee replacements and find long-term relief through these treatments. Dr. Agarwal has successfully treated high-profile individuals, including former Prime Ministers and industrialists, using his innovative approaches.

New Rules at New Delhi Railway Station for Maha Kumbh Passengers to Ensure Safety



New Delhi: In the wake of the tragic stampede at New Delhi Railway Station last Saturday, which resulted in 18 deaths and several injuries, Delhi Police has introduced new measures for passengers heading to the Maha Kumbh. These rules aim to prevent overcrowding and ensure passenger safety. Failing to comply with these rules may result in being stopped from entering the station.

Key Rules for Passengers:
No Early Entry: To avoid overcrowding on the platforms, passengers arriving too early before their trains departure will be required to wait outside the station.
Ticket Checking: Delhi Police, along with Railway Protection Force (RPF) and Government Railway Police (GRP), will conduct strict checks at all entry and exit points to monitor passenger



movement and ensure safety.
Trains from Platform 16: All special trains to Prayagraj will depart from platform 16, which can be accessed from multiple entry and exit points at ground level, eliminating the need for passengers to use the foot over bridge.
Foot Over Bridge Restrictions: In an effort to reduce congestion, the police has banned unnecessary movement on the foot over bridge. This will prevent delays and

overcrowding in the station.
Temporary Waiting Area: A temporary pandal and waiting area have been set up outside the station to accommodate the crowd, along with increased patrolling on all platforms to ensure passengers do not sit without a valid reason. These measures have been put in place to ensure a smooth and safe journey for all passengers traveling for the Maha Kumbh.

DPS Bokaro Students Excel in KAMP-NASTA; Akshat Tops National Level

Bokaro: DPS Bokaro students have once again excelled in the Knowledge and Awareness Mapping Platform (KAMP), an initiative by the CSIR and NIScPR under the Department of Science and Industrial Research, Govt. of India. Akshat Priyadarshi (Class V) achieved an outstanding National Topper Rank 2, earning the Certificate of Outstanding Performance and an A+ grade. Three other students, Dhruv Srivastava (IV), Aniket Singh (V), and Aditya Raj (VI), secured the State Topper Rank



1, while Anshula Shree earned State Topper Rank 2. A total of 29 students from DPS Bokaro were recognized for their excellence.

tion from lakhs of students nationwide. The examination focused on evaluating competencies such as observation, critical thinking, and problem-solving, aimed at nurturing scientific aptitude among young minds. Dr. A. S. Gangwar, Principal of DPS Bokaro, congratulated the students and emphasized the importance of such initiatives in fostering scientific curiosity and development skills. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in New Delhi.

JAC Cancels Class 10 Exams Over Hindi, Science Paper Leaks

L&T Edutech Partners with BIT Mesra to Bridge Skill Gap & Enhance Employability



Ranchi: Larsen & Toubro's L&T Edutech has taken a major step towards bridging the gap between industry and academia by launching its "Educate India (Learn Connect)" initiative. This program offers students access to a vast library of industry-relevant courses aimed at enhancing their skills and employability. As part of this effort, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between L&T Edutech and Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra (BIT Mesra) on Saturday. The collaboration focuses on providing students with quality education aligned with the demands of the evolving job market. BIT Mesra students will now benefit from expert-led training programs, advanced technical courses, and hands-on industrial exposure to boost their technical proficiency and career readiness. The MoU signing ceremony saw key representatives, including Mr. Sanjeev Sharma (Head, Domestic Marketing Network, Saptarishi), Rajesh Sinha (Branch Manager, East Singhbhum), and dignitaries from BIT Mesra, including the Registrar, Dean, and Associate Dean of Alumni Relations and Placement. This partnership aims to create new learning opportunities for students while aligning their skills with industry needs, significantly enhancing their career prospects.

JAC Cancels Class 10 Exams Over Hindi, Science Paper Leaks

Ranchi: The Class 10 exams of the Jharkhand Academic Council (JAC) have been marred by a paper leak, leading to the cancellation of the Hindi and Science theory exams across the state. The JAC confirmed the leak after comparing the leaked question papers with those distributed on the exam day. The leak was discovered two days before the exam, and the Science paper, which was held today, was found to be identical to the leaked version. The Hindi exam, held on February 18, was also impacted by the same issue. JAC Chairman Natwa Hansda confirmed the leak, stating that when the Science question paper was opened at 9:45 AM today, it matched the leaked paper. In response, Chief Secretary Alka Tiwari convened a high-level meeting to address the situation. A committee will be formed to investigate the matter, and appropriate action will be taken against those responsible for the leak. The cancellation of the exams has raised questions about the next steps for affected students.



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MK Stalin rejects NEP 2020 condition, urges Modi to release education funds

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release Rs 2,152 crore in Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan funds, accusing the Union government of withholding funds to pressure the state into implementing the National Education Policy 2020.

Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking the immediate release of Rs 2,152 crore under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) amid an ongoing language row. Stalin expressed deep concern over Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's remarks, which suggested that the funds would not be released unless Tamil

Nadu implements the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. "This has created immense anxiety and unrest among students, political parties, and the general public in our state," Stalin stated in his letter. He reiterated Tamil Nadu's long-standing commitment to the two-language policy, emphasising that it is deeply rooted in the state's educational and social structure.

The Chief Minister recalled that Tamil Nadu had already raised strong objections to several provisions of NEP 2020. "These concerns were formally communicated in my letter dated 27th August 2024, and a detailed memorandum was personally submitted to you on 27th September 2024. However, despite these multiple representations, the Samagra Shiksha funds for 2024-2025 remain unreleased," he stated. Stalin strongly opposed the linking of SSA funds with the implementation of NEP and the PM Schools for



Rising India (PM SHRI) initiative, calling it "fundamentally unacceptable". He criticised the Union government for allegedly using the withholding of funds as a "pressure tactic" to coerce Tamil Nadu into adopting centrally mandated programmes, arguing that this was a direct violation of cooperative federalism. "This will

grossly undermine the states' rights to shape their own education policies based on their specific needs," he wrote.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the severe consequences of the fund delay, stating that it had jeopardised several critical initiatives, including teacher salaries, student welfare programmes, inclusive education schemes, RTE reimbursements for underprivileged students, and transport facilities for students in remote areas. Stalin urged Prime Minister Modi to personally intervene in the matter and ensure the prompt release of the funds to prevent disruptions in Tamil Nadu's education sector.

- Stalin opposes NEP-linked fund release condition
- Rs 2,152 crore funds remain unreleased to Tamil Nadu
- Chief Minister Stalin calls delay violation of federalism

Rekha Gupta takes oath as Delhi's 4th woman Chief Minister amid NDA unity show

Rekha Gupta took oath as the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and NDA Chief Ministers in a mega show of unity.



New Delhi. First-time MLA Rekha Gupta took oath as the Chief Minister of Delhi on Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and NDA Chief Ministers in a mega show of unity at the iconic Ramlila Maidan. Gupta, all smiles and wearing a red saree, was sworn in by Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena. Besides Gupta, six other MLAs, including Parvesh Verma, Manjinder Singh Sirsa and Kapil Mishra, took oath as Cabinet ministers. Ashish Sood, Pankaj Kumar Singh and Ravinder Indraj Singh were also sworn in as ministers in the government formed by the BJP after 27 years. BJP veteran and three-time Rohini MLA Vijender Gupta, who won in 2015 and 2020 amid the Arvind Kejriwal wave, will be the Assembly Speaker and Mohan Bisht his deputy. The development marks an important milestone for Rekha Gupta, 50, who becomes Delhi's fourth woman Chief Minister after BJP's Sushma Swaraj, Congress's Sheila Dikshit and AAP's Atishi. A lawyer by profession, Gupta hails from the Baniya community, which has been the BJP's traditional voter bloc, even during AAP's near-sweeps in the 2015 and 2020 Delhi elections.

New RSS Office "Grandeur Must Reflect Our Work": Mohan Bhagwat

New Delhi. RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat, while addressing the gathering at the Pravesh Utsav program of the renovated 'Keshav Kunj' in New Delhi, underlined the symbolic importance of the building's grandeur, stating that it should reflect the organisation's commitment to its ideals and the transformative impact of its work.



Reflecting on the Sangh's journey, Mr Bhagwat cautioned that while circumstances may change, the RSS's direction and core values must remain steadfast.

"The grandeur that is visible in this office should reflect the grandeur of the work of the Sangh, and its essence should be felt here. It doesn't

take long for a change in state... We continued, and now our circumstances have changed. In changing circumstances, we must be careful not to change our direction," the RSS Chief said.

The new headquarters of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), 'Keshav Kunj', has been completed in Delhi. The reconstruction project spans 3.75 acres and consists of three

12-story buildings, which will house approximately 300 rooms and offices. These buildings have been named Sadhna, Prerna, and Archana. The total cost of the project is around Rs 150 crore, funded by the contributions of over 75,000 people who support the ideology of Hindutva. RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat laid the foundation stone for the project in November 2016, although the work was delayed. According to RSS sources, the project features three towers, each with a ground floor and 12 additional floors. There are 13 elevators in the entire Keshav Kunj, five in the first and second towers and three in the third tower. Each tower is also equipped with a service

elevator. Gujarat-based architect Anoop Dave designed the new headquarters. Between the second and third towers lies a large open space, where a statue of RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar has been installed. According to sources, this area is referred to as the 'Sangh Sthan' (RSS Place). The building also features a large auditorium named after Ashok Singhal, a prominent leader associated with the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. The complex will also have facilities such as a library, health clinic, and sewage treatment plant. Solar energy is also being utilized at the site.

HD Kumaraswamy alleges political vendetta behind Congress' land survey move

Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy alleged that the Congress government in Karnataka was using land surveys as a political tool to target him, calling the move a continuation of long-standing harassment.

Karnataka. Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy alleged that the survey of his land in Karnataka's Ramanagara district is politically motivated. He claimed that the Congress government in Karnataka is using land surveys as a tool to target him, as they are unable to challenge him politically. Mocking the state's actions, he remarked, "Earlier, SITs were formed under IPS officers, now, they are forming SITs under IAS officers as well."

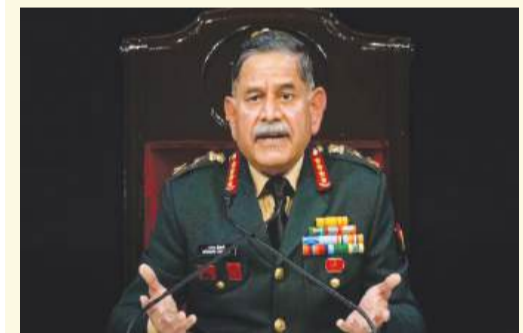


Speaking to the media outside his Bengaluru residence on Wednesday, Kumaraswamy said, "I purchased this land 40 years ago, and since then, this issue has been kept alive to target me politically. I bought this land in 1984 using the money I earned as a film distributor. Since then, some people have had their eyes on this property." The land in question is located near Bidadi's Kethaganahalli area. He accused the Congress

government of attempting to intimidate him, alleging that he had been under scrutiny since 2012 but no wrongdoing had been found. "Unlike Siddaramaiah, I have not looted government land. Since all previous investigations haven't yielded anything, they are now initiating an SIT investigation under IAS officers. Let them conduct any investigation they want—I have

nothing to hide," he asserted. Kumaraswamy recalled that in 1986, former Congress MLA CM Lingappa and Zilla Panchayat member Ramachandra had written to the then Prime Minister and Home Minister regarding the land. "In their complaint, they mentioned that I had purchased the land—not encroached upon it. I have been engaged in farming on this land, not in any illegal activities. I have all the necessary documents to prove my ownership," he said.

Taking a dig at social activist SR Hiremath of Samaja Parivartana Samudaya, Kumaraswamy alleged that Hiremath was making baseless claims. "This man, who pretends to protect the state's resources, has raised allegations against my land. However, I have not received any notice from the Karnataka High Court regarding this issue."



of national interest" During the interview, the Army chief was also asked about his earlier remarks that the terrain around the India-China border had been "doctored" by either of the two nations. In response, he noted that the Army had not moved into a disputed territory, but instead had just become "comfortable" and "assertive". Rahul Gandhi was heavily criticised by the BJP for his remarks, with the party spokesperson Sambit Patra even sarcastically dubbing him "Rahul Jinping" in reference to Chinese President Xi Jinping for mentioning "China" 34 times during his Lok Sabha address. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also attacked the Congress MP over his "stupid self-confidence" and accused the Opposition party of failing to strengthen India's manufacturing sector during the 10-year UPA rule.

In a tweet on February 4, Rajnath Singh came down heavily against Rahul Gandhi's "false allegations" and added that it was a "matter of deep regret that he should indulge in irresponsible politics on matters

No scope: Omar Abdullah's U-turn on dialogue with Pakistan over Kashmir

Omar Abdullah, who had last year pitched for talks between the two nations, accused Pakistan of 'meddling' in the affairs of Jammu and Kashmir.

New Delhi. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in a volte-face, said there was "no scope" of India initiating a dialogue with Pakistan following a spree of terror attacks on security forces and construction camps in the state. In an interview with the BBC, Abdullah, who had last year pitched for talks between the two nations, accused Pakistan of "meddling" in the affairs of J&K. "Pakistan has never stopped meddling (in J&K's affairs). It would be foolish to suggest that what J&K has seen has been purely indigenous without outside assistance. At the moment, there is no scope (for talks) due to the sort of attacks that have happened in the past few years," Abdullah said.



The National Conference vice-president stressed that Pakistan would have to take on board some of the Indian government's concerns for a "friendly working relationship".

"Trying to get Pakistan to take on board some of the government's concerns so that we can establish a friendly working relationship is something the National Conference has talked about," he further said. The Chief Minister also outrightly rejected any possibility of Article 370, which was

abrogated in 2019, being restored in the Union Territory. "No! Simple as that," Abdullah said. Interestingly, ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, both Omar and his father Farooq Abdullah batted for the resumption of talks with Pakistan.

Addressing an election rally in north Kashmir, Omar said, "The NC always supported a dialogue process (with Pakistan). Listen to Bharat Ratna Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He said friends can be changed, not neighbours. Pakistan was, is and will remain a neighbour." While his predecessor, Mehbooba Mufti, was an ardent supporter of talks with Pakistan, this is the first time that Omar has rejected any sort of dialogue with India's neighbour after becoming the Chief Minister for a second term.

Omar Abdullah cites spree of terror attacks on security forces
Accuses Pakistan of meddling in J&K's affairs
Last year, Omar said his party always supported dialogue process

In the absence of SAARC

ONLY weeks ago, Delhi and many other parts of northern India emerged from a season of choking smog. Likewise in Lahore, where the provincial government had to declare a health emergency, shut down schools and colleges, and order residents to stay at home. In the two Punjab, Indian and Pakistani, an arid winter is making farmers nervous about the rabi crop. Jammu & Kashmir hasn't had enough snowfall this year, which is bad news for its rivers. The Chenab has bottomed out already. Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is undergoing a similarly dry winter. The impact is felt all the way across in the Himalayas in Nepal, dependent for snow and rain on the same western disturbances that bring winter precipitation to northern India and Pakistan.

Across the entire region, climate change has affected livelihoods and is endangering lives. Typically, it is the poor that bear the brunt of extreme weather events. When global warming raises sea levels, threatening to engulf Mumbai, Karachi, Kolkata and Dhaka in frequent flooding, extreme rainfall, cyclones and salinisation, it is the poorest in these large cities who will be the worst affected. The warming is also depleting marine resources, causing conflicts among fishers across borders, for example, between those from Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka's Jaffna.

In the face of these challenges, civil society groups and media representatives from South Asia gathered earlier this month to discuss the possibilities of regional cooperation for climate action. It is possible to imagine that as the biggest economy in the region, a rising world power and an aspiring leader of the Global South, India would have hosted the conference, in line with its Neighbourhood First policy. But that boat has sailed. The conference, which brought together about a hundred people, was held in Islamabad at the Jinnah Convention Centre, all spruced up after a recent facelift for the SCO Heads of Government meeting that Pakistan hosted last October.

It was not the embattled government of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif that organised this ambitious conference. The event was put together and helmed by the leading Pakistani media group Dawn. Seamlessly choreographed, the two-day conference, 'Breathe Pakistan — International Climate Change Conference', packed in 14 sessions, had the backing of several sponsors led by the provincial government of Punjab, the United Nations and the World Bank. Call it Track 2.5 or 3.5 or even 4. The visas, especially for invitees from India, would not have been possible without the official green light. I attended the event as a speaker in a session on the media's role in climate action. Sonam Wangchuk, the famous Ladakh-based activist, and Harjeet Singh, the head of a climate resilience NGO, were among the others from India. Sunita Narain of the Centre for Science and Environment participated via Zoom.

The conference was being held against the rise of climate change-denying leaders in the US, and in other parts of the world — copycat 'Trumpism', as Harjeet described the new American age during a session on 'Decarbonisation of South Asia'. The other elephant in the room was the absence of official engagement between the two biggest nations in the region, India and Pakistan. But that seemed to be the point: the climate emergency is too real, too here and now, to wait for conflict resolution, or for Trumpism to fade. In an ideal world, climate change should have been right up the street of SAARC — a one-time dream of regional cooperation that struggled with bilateral hostilities from the start and is now comatose and brain-dead. If India has been striving to set up regional cooperation without Pakistan (also known in Delhi circles as 'SAARC-minus one'), think of the conference as a sort of riposte, albeit a civil society-driven one, that action against climate change cannot be envisioned in 'minus one' terms. Pakistan has been ravaged in recent years by floods of epic proportions, glacial melt, the degradation of the Indus basin ecosystem, winds from the west carrying dust, and smog of the same kind — and from similar sources — that paralyses life in north India for three months every year.

Rebuilding Punjab from the new low of deportation flights

The next generation yearns for a path forward and needs a clear thought and vision for the future.

Punjab's slide has reached its nadir. The exodus of its youth through clandestine routes and the eventual cruel deportation of some of them from the US to the holy city of Amritsar lately are the new lows. Once the number one state of the country across indices, even up to 2003, it has fallen drastically over the past two decades. One may sound like a prophet of doom, but the reality truly bites. Mindboggling as it may seem, even during the era of militancy, the state's agrarian economy sustained itself remarkably. Historically, the people of the state have been happy, progressive and extremely hardworking. The youth took to the armed forces, administrative services, entrepreneurship and innovative farming like fish to water. And yet, this industrious state and its enterprising people are now at a loss and looking for avenues of escape. Punjab's industrial prowess and its avenues of trade and business, took multiple hits during the Partition of 1947, and further in the Indo-Pak wars, and still more during the over a decade of militancy. The state's debt exceeds Rs 3,50,000 crore and it ranks at the bottom of the 18-state Fiscal Health Index 2025. But the slide is not just economic. There is also a severe political trust deficit, across party lines. The Akali Dal is decimated and its leadership lately shamed by the Sikh clergy itself. The Akali Dal under Prakash Singh Badal has had the longest reign of nearly 19 years, including the period of slide from 2007-2017, even though it was in partnership with the powerful national ally, the BJP, for much of this period. The present-day ruling party of the state, the AAP, has done precious little to improve the lot of its people or its economy although it is halfway through its term of office. Since Independence, the Punjabis have been pivoting between the Congress and the Akalis and finally mandated the AAP for political control after lacklustre terms of the other two favoured parties. However, in the last two decades, every promise of prosperity by each party has been but a chimera for the people of Punjab. Terming the problems of Punjab today as existential may not be an overstatement. For too long, the youth have watched their leaders head for the national capital and return thumping their chests, parroting perceived victories, easily befogged and befooled by the powers-that-be, only to find their Punjab further diminished. Also, its bargaining chips, political or otherwise, are few, and most have been pawned away for the personal greed of politicians. In the numbers game of

politics, our once numero uno state is today befuddled, landlocked, politically unimportant and hopelessly in debt. The next generation, thus, yearns for a path forward and needs a clear thought and vision for the future. Look around you, they tell their elders: name one leader who can guide you through the morass and pull Punjab out of the quicksand! They look at their remarkable legacy, the Khalsa sarkaar of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, when Punjab's boundaries extended across the entire Indus Valley up to Tibet and Ladakh, all the way to Khyber, and down to Delhi. And yet, they find that the state has not had a single stalwart who could match the vision and

on, so it seemed, across the globe. Historically, the Sikhs were never backseat drivers and, thus, led from the front in the wars waged against the British (the Anglo-Sikh wars) and for the British later. Post the fall of the Khalsa Raj, evidence of Sikhs battling it out in Malta, China, Tibet, Japan, Somalia, Iraq, Mesopotamia, Sudan and elsewhere during the two World Wars is extensive. And, they dug roots in these territories. In the contemporary times, they have expanded their universe manifold into the global village. It is this fact that makes the latest deportations of youth even more unpalatable. The frustration of the young



Punjab flows from the downright illogic of Punjab's reality. It grows the staples, wheat and rice, in mindboggling tonnage, yet processes minuscule amounts into foodstuff. It has the iconic Golden Temple that attracts the highest number of visitors — 40 million per annum — but no MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) tourism and no plans for synergetic journeys across the state. It has a border that opens out the subcontinent to the entire Asian plate and beyond, and no trade. It has nurtured entrepreneurship, but its businessmen have funnelled their major investments elsewhere. It has been the food basket for the nation, yet its farmers are in penury. Only a holistic overhaul can excite the youth again — perhaps, a short-term strategy to

counter the fall, a mid-term policy to steady the boat and a long-term approach striding new technologies. Diversifying the economy, enabling a surge in exports, reforming education, straddling environmental degradation; doubling down on such low-hanging fruits as tourism, entrepreneurship, and services; bringing young women centre stage; creating a calendar of events for tourism and business; rethinking the agrarian basket and adding value — all this requires a master plan and a systemic change in its execution methodology. Perhaps the bugle, rather the "nagada", of renaissance has already been sounded by Diljit Dosanjh in his clarion call: "Oh, Punjabi aa gaye oye" (the Punjabis have arrived). As an icon of the youth, he may just have lit a beacon of hope in them. It is about time the Punjabis stepped out of hibernation and took a pride of place in the nation and elsewhere, one that is rightfully theirs, on a high in life and not hanging low in nadir.

dynamism of Partap Singh Kairon, who, in his term (1957-1964), ushered in not only the Green Revolution but also invited industry leaders. He even had Le Corbusier build the new capital city of the state, Chandigarh. It was after his assassination in 1965 that the Punjab state was reorganised on a linguistic basis, a possibility that Kairon had resisted tooth and nail. With this new development, this proud state, which had lost over 2,00,000 square km of its territory to Pakistan due to the line drawn by Radcliffe partitioning the subcontinent, lost another 58.8 per cent of itself to a three-state solution brought about by the Akali Punjabi Suba movement. The Great Land of Punjab which comprised a massive 3,60,000 sq km pre-Independence, has been squeezed to just 50362 sq km. Indeed, a Punjab diminished by stature and by size! This remarkable downside of the land of the Khalsa has a contrarian upside as well. The faith moved

counter the fall, a mid-term policy to steady the boat and a long-term approach striding new technologies. Diversifying the economy, enabling a surge in exports, reforming education, straddling environmental degradation; doubling down on such low-hanging fruits as tourism, entrepreneurship, and services; bringing young women centre stage; creating a calendar of events for tourism and business; rethinking the agrarian basket and adding value — all this requires a master plan and a systemic change in its execution methodology. Perhaps the bugle, rather the "nagada", of renaissance has already been sounded by Diljit Dosanjh in his clarion call: "Oh, Punjabi aa gaye oye" (the Punjabis have arrived). As an icon of the youth, he may just have lit a beacon of hope in them. It is about time the Punjabis stepped out of hibernation and took a pride of place in the nation and elsewhere, one that is rightfully theirs, on a high in life and not hanging low in nadir.

Beyond deportation

Will Vaishnav take blame for stampede

The horrific New Delhi station stampede, which claimed 18 lives, was not an accident — it was a failure of planning, foresight and accountability. As thousands of pilgrims flocked to board trains for the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, the authorities failed to anticipate and manage the massive rush, leading to tragic consequences. Former Railway Minister Pawan Kumar Bansal was blunt in his assessment: the ultimate responsibility lies with the Railway Minister. The government's inability to put proper crowd control measures in place despite knowing the surge in travellers is a glaring oversight. The Maha Kumbh is not a surprise event; its scale and impact on railway traffic are well-documented. Why, then, was a tragedy of this magnitude allowed to unfold?



In the wake of the disaster, the government swiftly announced Rs 10 lakh compensation for each victim's

family and Rs 2.5 lakh for the seriously injured, as per Indian Railways' guidelines. However, reports of wads of cash being handed over at the station raise ethical

concerns. The sheer optics of authorities distributing notes in violation of 2023 compensation guidelines that allow cash distribution of up to Rs 50,000 only add insult to injury. Instead of fixing systemic issues, is the government attempting damage control with cash payouts?

Not surprisingly, the demand for Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav's resignation has gained traction, with his history of deflecting blame for railway mishaps underlined. The government's initial dismissal of the stampede as a 'rumour' further exposes its reluctance to acknowledge failures. Historically, ministers like Lal Bahadur Shastri and Nitish Kumar stepped down, taking moral responsibility for railway disasters. Will Vaishnav do the same? Beyond resignations, systemic reforms are necessary. The Railways must overhaul its crowd management protocols, particularly during religious and festival rushes.

Banks bend for rich corporates, break farmers

Why should banking laws be different for different categories of bank customers? Do banks ever treat those who take housing, car, tractor or motorbike loans with the same kind of kid gloves

The inequality is grotesque. Responding to an RTI plea, the Reserve Bank of India has informed that since April 1, 2014, the banks have written off a staggering Rs 16.61 lakh crore of bad loans of corporate India. On the other hand, speaking in Parliament the other day, Hanuman Beniwal, an MP from Rajasthan, said the outstanding farm loans in the country now exceed Rs 32 lakh crore.

More than 18.74 crore farmers are saddled with outstanding loans. In fact, the total outstanding farm loans are 20 times higher than the outlay for the annual agricultural budget, Beniwal said, and asked the Finance Minister why no mention was made of any farm loan waiver scheme for farmers. On the contrary, of the total write-off of Rs 16.61-lakh crore toxic loans of India Inc in the past 11 years (with only 16 per cent recovery), Indian banks appear not to have any second thought before writing-off Rs 10.6 lakh crore of the unpaid loans of India Inc in the past five years. Reports say that 50 per cent of the bad loans being struck belonged to large companies.

But when it comes to farmers, a bank in Shimoga, Karnataka, had showed the utmost urgency by summoning a small farmer who had to walk 15 km in the absence of a regular bus service to clear an outstanding balance of just Rs 3.46. In the financial year 2023-24 alone, banks have written off Rs 1.7-lakh crore. A year earlier, in 2022-23, banks wrote off Rs 2.08-lakh crore. But when it comes to waiving farm loans, the Centre has done it only twice: in 1990 and 2008. Some state governments have done it separately, but it is not a burden on the banks as the states make the payments to the bank for the amount waived. While the unpaid bank loans are written off with sagacity, as if the write-off adds to nation-building, it is so painful to see a video clip of a woman self-help group (SHG) member being dragged to a waiting police van for her inability to pay back Rs 35,000. It appears as if it's only poor farmers and



rural workforce that are responsible for upsetting the national balance sheet with their petty defaults, while the rich defaulters get an easy walkover. The rich defaulters include over 16,000 willful defaulters with an unpaid amount of Rs 3.45-lakh crore in bank loans, and who even the RBI acknowledges had the money but did not want to pay back. Certainly, these are the wealth creators, and the nation must applaud them.

Now take a look at this farmer from Pilibanga in Rajasthan. He took a loan of Rs 2.70 lakh from a finance

company and had paid back Rs 2.57-lakh (including Rs 57,000 support received from the state during the pandemic). But unable to pay back the remaining amount, he comes home one day to find his house locked. Later, the lock was broken by outraged villagers. This unsavoury event must be viewed in the context of a 92 per cent 'haircut' that banks and lenders undertook when Adhunik Metaliks, a leading manufacturer of alloy and steel in the eastern region, settled for Rs 410 crore against their outstanding dues of Rs 5,370 cr after its

resolution plan was approved by the Kolkata branch of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), in July 2018. Obviously, with such a huge 'haircut', the promoters of the company said they are willing to complete all activities and start working towards reviving the flagship company. No wonder, once hailed as a transformative resolution mechanism — the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) — has come under the flap and the banks are no longer enthused to use it for recoveries. Reports say recoveries for banks and other lenders are coming down.

The bigger question, however, remains. If the house of a Rajasthan farmer can be locked for a non-recovery of a pending amount of Rs 20,000, why couldn't the NCLT lock the premises (and put the owners, like farmers, behind bars) of firms like Adhunik Metaliks instead of giving it cakewalk by simply waiving 92 per cent of the pending dues? And, if such a massive 'haircut' is required for a big company, why shouldn't farmers get the benefit of a similar approach and, that too, in a relatively smaller way? After all, their individual outstanding loans are hardly a fraction of the corporate bad debts.

Moreover, why should banking laws be different for different categories of bank customers? Do banks ever treat those who take housing, car, tractor or motorbike loans with the same kind of kid gloves? How long can the banks go on justifying the need for owning the bad debts of the companies and, that too, in the name of economic growth?

When I see agonising videos on social media of farmers — those running tractors to re-plough their standing cauliflower and cabbage crops in Punjab and Haryana; and, more recently, the crash in tomato prices for farmers in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh — I am reminded of the Operation Greens scheme launched in the 2018-19 Budget with an outlay of Rs 500 crore to stabilise the prices of tomato, onion and potato.



समर सीजन में आउटफिट के साथ इन पांच एक्सेसरीज को भी रखें अपडेट

मौसम के हिसाब से अपने वार्डरोब को अपडेट करना बहुत ही जरूरी है जिससे आपको कम्फर्ट के साथ स्टाइलिश लुक भी मिले। कई बार ऐसा होता है कि हम आउटफिट पर बहुत ध्यान देते हैं लेकिन मैचिंग एक्सेसरीज को हम इग्नोर कर देते हैं। ऐसे में समर सीजन में आपको कुछ एक्सेसरीज को अपने वार्डरोब का हिस्सा जरूर रखना चाहिए—

स्कार्फ बनाए आपको परफेक्ट

गर्मियों के दिनों में स्कार्फ धूप से बचाने के साथ स्टाइलिश लुक देने के लिए काफी है। समर सीजन में आउटफिट के साथ मैच होते स्कार्फ को स्टाइल स्टेटमेंट का हिस्सा जरूर बनाएं।

हैट्स आपको बनाए कूल

गर्मियों के दौरान हैट्स भी आपके लुक को कुल अंदाज देती है। हैट्स आपके लुक को बढ़ाने के साथ ही आपके बालों और चेहरे को भी तेज धूप से बचाती है। खासतौर पर आउटिंग या ट्रिप पर ड्रेस से मैचिंग हैट पहनें जिससे आपको परफेक्ट लुक मिलेगा।

स्टाइलिश सनग्लासेस

गर्मियों के फैशनबल एक्सेसरीज में चश्मे सबसे पहले आते हैं। यह आपको गर्मियों में नया और ट्रेंडी लुक देते हैं। गर्मियों के दौरान सभी की आंखों पर सनग्लासेस देखे जाते हैं। आपको चेहरे के हिसाब से सनग्लासेस को चुनना चाहिए लेकिन कोशिश करें कि फ्रेम में मेटल क्लासी वर्क को ही चुनें।

फुटवेयर भी है स्टाइलिश

फुटवेयर भी आउटफिट के हिसाब से होने चाहिए। साथ ही इस मौसम में पसीना बहुत आता है। खासकर जिन महिलाओं के पैरों में पसीना आता है, उनको ऐसे फुटवेयर को चुनना चाहिए, जिसमें पैरों में हवा लगती रहे और पसीना न आने पाए।

हैंडबैग को न भूलें

इस बार समर में आपको नया ट्रेंडी बैग लेना चाहिए। आपको अगर हैंडबैग की आदत नहीं है, तो कोई स्टाइलिश वन साइड बैग या बैकपैक लेकर आप इसे अपने स्टाइल स्टेटमेंट का हिस्सा बना सकते हैं।



कहते हैं कि पैरेंटिंग का

मतलब सिर्फ बच्चे को जन्म देकर उसे पालना ही नहीं बल्कि पैरेंटिंग से समाज के लिए एक जिम्मेदारी भी जुड़ी हुई है। बच्चों की अच्छी परवरिश अच्छे समाज की नींव भी है। बचपन में आप बच्चों को जो भी सिखाते हैं, वे बातें उनके मन पर छप जाती हैं। बड़े होने पर उनकी पर्सनेलिटी के लिए बचपन के अनुभव और परवरिश भी जिम्मेदार होती हैं। आपने कुछ लोगों को देखा होगा कि उनमें प्रतिभा होने के

बाद भी आत्मविश्वास की कमी होती है। इसके कई कारण हो सकते हैं लेकिन बचपन में कुछ बातें भी इसके लिए जिम्मेदार हैं। ऐसे में हर माता-पिता को कुछ बातों का ध्यान रखना चाहिए—

बच्चों का मजाक न उड़ाएं

कोई भी बात कितनी बड़ी है या छोटी, यह नजरिए के साथ उभर पर भी निर्भर करती है।



इन छोटे-छोटे उपायों से मीठी नींद में सोएगा आपका बच्चा

बड़ों की तरह ही बच्चों में सोने की भी अलग-अलग आदतें होती हैं। कई बच्चे थोड़ी-सी भी फिजिकल एक्टिविटी करते ही बार-बार सो जाते हैं, तो कुछ बच्चों को बहुत ही मुश्किल से नींद आती है। बच्चों की हेल्थ के लिए उनकी 10-11 घंटे की नींद बहुत जरूरी है। ऐसे में अगर आपका बच्चा सोता नहीं है, तो आपको उसे सुलाने के लिए कुछ टिप्स अपनाने चाहिए—

इन बातों का भी रखें ध्यान

- बच्चे को रोज अलग सुलाने की कोशिश करें। अगर आप शुरू से ही ऐसा करेंगी, तो इससे उसमें अलग सोने की आदत पड़ेगी।
- सुलाने से पहले बच्चे की मालिश करना भी काफी फायदेमंद रहता है, इससे उसको अच्छी नींद आएगी।
- सुलाने से पहले बच्चे की सफाई पर भी ध्यान दें। खास कर नाक, कान और मुंह की ठीक से सफाई करके उन्हें सुलाएं।
- बच्चे को सुलाते वक़्त कमरे में अंधेरा जरूर कर दें, क्योंकि अंधेरे में नींद से जुड़ा हार्मोन सक्रिय होता है। यही हार्मोन नींद लाने में सहायक होता है।
- कमरे की खिड़की के परदे जरूर फैला दें और संभव हो तो दरवाजे को भी बंद कर दें, ताकि बच्चा बाधरहित अच्छी नींद ले सके।
- धीमा म्यूजिक और वॉर्म लाइट भी बच्चे को अच्छी नींद देने में मददगार होते हैं। इसकी व्यवस्था आप उसके कमरे में कर सकती हैं।
- जब आपका बच्चा सो रहा हो, तो घर में तेज आवाज वाले उपकरण जैसे मिक्सी, वैक्यूम क्लीनर आदि का इस्तेमाल न करें। इससे बच्चे डर कर जाग जाते हैं।
- आप चाहें तो बच्चे के साथ सो सकती हैं, जब तक कि वह सो नहीं जाता। लेकिन उससे लिपट कर ना सोएं, वरना उसको इसकी आदत हो जाती है और आपके -हटते ही उसकी नींद टूट जाती है। बेहतर यही होगा कि आप अपने बच्चे को इस तरह की आदत ना डालें।
- जब बच्चा हल्की नींद में हो, तभी उसे गोद से या झूले से निकाल कर बिस्तर पर सुला दें।

माता-पिता की इन पांच आदतों की वजह से बच्चों का कॉन्फिडेंस लेवल होता है डाउन

जैसे, आपके लिए बेड से जम्प करके नीचे कूदना, फुटबॉल पर किक करना छोटी बात हो सकती है, लेकिन किसी बच्चे के लिए ये बातें बहुत मेटर करती हैं। आपको कभी भी बच्चे की छोटी से छोटी बातों का मजाक नहीं उड़ाना चाहिए।

बच्चों की तुलना करने से बचें

हर बच्चा प्यारा होता है। सभी की अलग आदतें होती हैं लेकिन बचपन में एक आदत कॉमन होती है, वे हैं दूसरे बच्चों को अच्छा बताने पर बच्चे इस मन पर ले लेते हैं। ऐसे में सम्भावना रहती है कि बच्चे दूसरे बच्चों से चिढ़ने लगते हैं या खुद को कमतर समझने लगते हैं इसलिए बच्चों की तुलना करने से बचें।

हर काम में कमी निकालना

बचपन में किसी भी काम को परफेक्टली करने से ज्यादा जरूरी है, बच्चों का कोई न कोई एक्टिविटी करते रहना। ऐसा करने से बच्चे की एनर्जी सही दिशा में लगती है। जैसे, अगर आपका बच्चा पेंटिंग करता है, तो उसकी पेंटिंग में

कमियां निकालने की जगह उसकी अच्छी चीजों की तारीफ करें।

दूसरों के सामने बच्चों की बुराई

कई माता-पिता दूसरे लोगों या आस-पड़ोस में अपने बच्चों की शिकायतें करते रहते हैं। कई बार माता-पिता मजाक की तरह या सिर्फ गपशप करने के इरादे से भी ऐसा करते हैं लेकिन बच्चे के मन में ये बातें घर कर जाती हैं और उनका आत्मविश्वास डगमगाने लगता है।

बच्चों को छोटी-छोटी बातों पर पीटना

बचपन में हुई कोई भी गलती इतनी बड़ी नहीं होती, जिसपर बच्चों को पीटकर ही समझाया जाए। बच्चों को हर छोटी बातों पर मारने से वे खुद को सेंफ फील नहीं करते। उन्हें हमेशा लगता है कि वे बहुत बुरे हैं और उनके मम्मी-पापा उन्हें बिल्कुल पसंद नहीं करते। साथ ही उनके अंदर असुरक्षा की भावना इतनी बढ़ जाती है कि वे डरने लगते हैं।



क्रिएटिव तरीकों को अपनाएं और बच्चों के साथ बिताएं क्वालिटी टाइम

वर्तमान समय में, बच्चों को सबसे ज्यादा जिस चीज की जरूरत होती है वह है माता-पिता का समय। आमतौर पर पैरेंट्स अपने बच्चों को हर सुख-सुविधा देना चाहते हैं और इसलिए वे कड़ी मेहनत करते हैं। लेकिन इस बीच वे यह मूल जाते हैं कि लवजरी आइटम से भी ज्यादा बच्चे अपने माता-पिता का साथ, उनका प्यार व समय चाहते हैं। इसलिए आप उनके लिए मेहनत करें लेकिन फिर भी उनके साथ क्वालिटी टाइम बिताना ना भूलें। यह कहीं ना कहीं आपके गीतर के तनाव को भी कम करने में मददगार होगा।

अगर आप भी बच्चों के साथ क्रिएटिव तरीके से एक अच्छा समय बिताना चाहते हैं और आपके समझ नहीं आ रहा है कि वास्तव में क्या किया जाए तो परेशान ना हों। आज इस लेख में हम आपको बच्चों के साथ क्वालिटी टाइम बिताने के कुछ क्रिएटिव आईडियाज के बारे में बता रहे हैं, जो यकीनन आपको भी काफी पसंद आएंगे—

बनाएं मार्निंग रूटीन

कहते हैं कि दिन की शुरुआत जैसी होती है, पूरा दिन भी वैसा ही गुजरता है। इसलिए अगर संभव हो तो आप बच्चे के साथ एक मार्निंग रूटीन सेट कर सकती हैं। इसमें आप कबल तय करने से लेकर उनके साथ पार्क में वॉक कर सकते हैं या फिर बच्चों के साथ योगाभ्यास करना भी एक अच्छा आईडिया है। इससे आप ना सिर्फ

उनके साथ अच्छा समय बिता पाते हैं, बल्कि इससे उनका शारीरिक व मानसिक विकास होने में भी मदद मिलती है।

प्लॉन करें गेम्स

सुनने में आपको शायद यह बेहद ही सिंपल नजर आए, लेकिन वास्तव में इस तरीके से आप ना सिर्फ बच्चों के साथ एक फन टाइम बिता सकते हैं, बल्कि इससे आपके लर्निंग रिकल्स और रचनात्मकता को भी बढ़ा सकती हैं। आप उनके साथ कुछ ऐसे गेम्स खेलें, जिसमें उनकी फिजिकल और मेंटल एक्सरसाइज हो।

बेडटाइम स्टोरीज को ना भूलें

अगर आप पूरा दिन काफी बिजी रहते हैं तो ऐसे में आप रात के समय एक रूटीन बना सकते हैं, जिसमें आप बेडटाइम पर उन्हें कहानी सुनाएं। बेडटाइम आमतौर पर आपके बच्चे की कल्पना को उत्तेजित करने का समय होता है। साथ ही साथ कहानियां सुनने से उन्हें नींद भी अच्छी आती है जो उनके शारीरिक और मानसिक विकास के लिए जरूरी है। अगर आपका बच्चा उम्र में थोड़ा बड़ा है तो आप कुछ ऐसा भी कर सकते हैं कि एक दिन कहानी आप सुनाएं और दूसरे दिन उन्हें सुनाने के लिए कहें। बच्चे कहीं पर पढ़ी या सुनी हुई स्टोरीज के साथ-साथ खुद भी एक कहानी बनाकर आपको सुना सकते हैं।

एक्टिविटीज में आएगा बेहद मजा

बच्चों को हमेशा कुछ ना कुछ नया करना काफी अच्छा लगता है। ऐसे में आप घर में रखी पुरानी चीजों की मदद से उनके साथ कोई एक्टिविटी कर सकती हैं। आप घर के लिए कोई डेकोर आइटम तैयार करें या फिर उन्हें पेंट करने दें। इसी तरह जब आप उनके साथ अलग-अलग एक्टिविटीज करेंगी तो इससे वह खुद भी कई चीजें बनाने के लिए प्रेरित होंगे और उनके दिमाग में कई नए आईडियाज आएंगे।

कपड़ों की सिलवटें बिना प्रेस किए भी हो सकती हैं दूर

आपका अचानक किसी जरूरी मीटिंग या पार्टी में जाने का प्लान बने और जैसे ही आप वहां पहनने के लिए अलमारी से कपड़े निकालें कि लाइट चली जाए या प्रेस खराब हो जाए, ऐसा अक्सर कई लोगों के साथ हुआ होगा। ऐसी स्थिति में मन में पहला ख्याल यही आता है, काश! कोई ऐसा तरीका होता जिससे बिना प्रेस किए कपड़ों की सिलवटें अपने आप दूर हो जाती। अगर आपने भी कभी ऐसी ही कोई विधा की है तो आपकी विधा को पूरा करते हुए आपको बताते हैं वो असरदार तरीके,

जिनकी मदद से आप कपड़ों की सिलवटों को बिना प्रेस किए भी आसानी से हटा सकते हैं।

बिना प्रेस कपड़ों से हटाएं सिलवटें

टॉवल- टॉवल की मदद से कपड़ों की सिलवटें दूर कर सकती हैं। इसके लिए सिलवट वाले कपड़े को बिछा दें और फिर गीले टॉवल से कपड़े की सिलवट वाली जगह को दबाएं। ऐसा करने से कपड़े की सिलवटें दूर हो जाएगी।

भारी सामान- जिस कपड़े पर सिलवट है उसे मेट्रेस या किसी

भारी सामान के नीचे कुछ घंटों के लिए दबाकर रख दें। इससे आपके कपड़ों की सिलवटें निकल जाएंगी।

स्प्रे बोतल-पानी में सिरका मिलाकर उसे एक स्प्रे बोतल में डालकर सिलवट वाली जगह डालें। ऐसे में कपड़े के सूखने के बाद सिलवटें नजर नहीं आएंगी।

भारी बर्तन- छोटे भारी बर्तनों की मदद से भी आप अपने कपड़ों की सिलवटों को दूर कर सकते हैं। इसके लिए एक भारी तले के बर्तन को तेज आंच पर गर्म करके प्रेस की तरह कपड़ों की सिलवटों को दूर करें। बर्तन की तली साफ रखें वरना कपड़े दाग लगने से गंदे हो सकते हैं।

ब्लो ड्रायर- ब्लो ड्रायर की मदद से भी सिलवटों को दूर किया जा सकता है। कपड़ों की सिलवटें दूर करने के लिए सबसे पहले आपको जिस कपड़े की सिलवट दूर करनी है, उसे बिछा लें और इस पर हल्के हाथ से पानी की कुछ बूंदें डालकर ब्लो ड्रायर की मदद से सिलवटें दूर करें। आइस क्यूब- वॉशिंग मशीन के ड्रायर में 2-4 आइस क्यूब के साथ अपने सिलवट वाले कपड़े भी डालकर ड्रायर चला दें। इसके बाद कपड़ों को ड्रायर से निकालकर कपड़ों को हल्के से झटक कर टांग दें। आपके कपड़ों की सिलवटें दूर हो जाएंगी।



NEWS BOX

Champions Trophy: Rohit Sharma needs 12 runs vs Bangladesh to achieve historic feat

New Delhi India captain Rohit Sharma is just 12 runs away from reaching a significant career milestone—completing 11,000 runs in One Day Internationals (ODIs). This landmark moment could arrive in India's much-anticipated Champions Trophy opener against Bangladesh on February 20. If Rohit achieves this feat, he will become only the 10th batter in cricket history and the fourth from India to surpass 11,000 ODI runs, joining the elite company of Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, and Virat Kohli. One of India's most prolific ODI batters, Rohit has played 260 innings so far. If he reaches the milestone in the match against Bangladesh, he will become the second-fastest player to do so, surpassing none other than Sachin Tendulkar, who took 276 innings to achieve the feat. Only his long-time teammate and batting stalwart Virat Kohli has reached the mark quicker, doing so in just 222 innings.



Champions Trophy: Full coverage

India enter the Champions Trophy with confidence after a dominant clean-sweep victory over England in their recent home ODI series. Led by Rohit Sharma, the Men in Blue are determined to break their ICC trophy drought and lift the coveted ODI silverware. As they gear up to face Bangladesh at the Dubai International Stadium, Rohit has emphasised that India's spin attack will be crucial to their game plan on the surface of the Dubai International Stadium. India's formidable bowling attack, featuring the likes of Ravindra Jadeja, Kuldeep Yadav, and Varun Chakravarthy, will play a key role in dictating terms against the Najmul Shanto-led Bangladesh side.

Speaking about India's preparations, Rohit stated that the team had ticked almost all boxes during the England series and would look to carry forward the ultra-aggressive approach they displayed in the ODI World Cup 2023.

Varun Chakravarthy experiment 2.0: Why India fans need to hold their horses

New Delhi India head into the Champions Trophy with their sights set on capturing their long-desired ICC ODI silverware. However, a key factor in their campaign will be the conditions they encounter. India will play all their matches in Dubai, a venue known for being spin-friendly, yet the current surface conditions remain unpredictable. This uncertainty has fueled immense excitement among fans about India's mystery spinner, Varun Chakravarthy.

Chakravarthy's recent T20I brilliance, highlighted by stellar performances against



Bangladesh, South Africa, and England, has positioned him as one of India's most dependable spinners—or at least that's how fans see him. Boosting his economy to 7.02 since his national comeback, he has picked up 31 wickets in just 12 matches across those three series. His outstanding form earned him a last-minute ODI debut against England, despite not being initially named in the squad.

Yes, these numbers are impressive. But they have also created immense pressure, with fans already expecting him to be India's trump card in the Champions Trophy. The excitement skyrocketed when Chakravarthy was drafted into the squad at the expense of Yashasvi Jaiswal, a clear indication that coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Rohit Sharma are backing him. However, it is crucial to remember that Varun is only human. We have seen time and again how fan-driven hype can turn into extreme scrutiny after just one underwhelming performance. Even a bowler of Jasprit Bumrah's calibre was not spared criticism during his injury struggles. While Dubai might offer spin-friendly conditions, expecting Chakravarthy to carry India's bowling attack alone is unrealistic.

Mbappe can reach Cristiano Ronaldo's level at Real Madrid: Ancelotti on hat-trick hero

Kylian Mbappé's stunning hat-trick against Manchester City powered Real Madrid into the Champions League Round of 16, prompting coach Carlo Ancelotti to compare him to club legend Cristiano Ronaldo as Los Blancos chase European glory.

New Delhi Real Madrid fans erupted with joy as Kylian Mbappe delivered a stunning hat-trick to propel Los Blancos into the Champions League Round of 16, securing a 3-1 victory over Manchester City on February 20. The win sealed Real Madrid's qualification with an impressive 6-3 aggregate score across both legs, reinforcing their status as serious contenders for European glory. Mbappe, who has long dreamed of wearing the iconic white jersey,



initially had a measured start at Real Madrid, but his sensational performance against Pep Guardiola's City has now elevated him to 28 goals across all competitions this season. The French star's growing influence at the club has drawn widespread praise, none more significant than that of Real Madrid head coach Carlo Ancelotti. Mbappe opened the scoresheet for Real Madrid in just the fourth minute of the game, setting the tone for the night. He doubled the lead in the 33rd minute, capitalizing on City's defensive lapses. His hat-trick goal came in the second

half, on the 66th minute, further deepening City's struggles. Their misery was somewhat softened when new signing Nico González pulled one back for Guardiola's side in stoppage time (90+2), but it was too little, too late. Speaking after the match, Ancelotti lauded Mbappe's brilliance and even made a bold prediction: if the 25-year-old continues to play at his full potential, he could reach the legendary heights of Cristiano Ronaldo at the club. The comparison is a monumental one, as Ronaldo remains Real Madrid's all-time leading goalscorer with 451 goals in

438 appearances, winning four Champions League titles, two LaLiga crowns, two Copa del Rey trophies, and multiple domestic and international honors. Everyone was waiting for this hat-trick from him and it has finally arrived," Ancelotti said. "He has the quality to reach the level of Cristiano [Ronaldo]. He has to work. Cristiano set the bar very high. He's started his career at this club now. I think with his quality, and the excitement he has about playing here, he can reach Cristiano's level, but it won't be easy. He'll have to work at it," he added. While Ancelotti acknowledged that Ronaldo's legacy remains an incredibly high standard for any footballer at Real Madrid, he believes Mbappe has the talent, drive, and consistency to carve his own era of dominance at the Santiago Bernabéu. Given his electric pace, clinical finishing, and big-game mentality, Mbappe has already showcased why he was Real Madrid's most sought-after signing for years.

With Los Blancos eyeing yet another Champions League triumph, Mbappe's rise to prominence comes at the perfect time. If he continues to produce match-winning performances like his hat-trick against City, he could very well be on his way to etching his name among the greatest players to ever wear the famous white shirt.

Champions Trophy 2025: How have India fared at mini-World Cup in the past

India's history at the Champions Trophy: India have been one of the most successful sides in the history of the Champions Trophy. India will enter this year's competition as favourites to win the title once again under the leadership of Rohit Sharma.

New Delhi The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 is well and truly underway, but all eyes will be on the Indian team who will take to the field on Thursday, February 20 for their first match of the tournament. India will be taking on Bangladesh in their campaign opener at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai. India come in as the favourites for the tournament with Rohit Sharma and his men boasting a very strong squad. Playing all their matches in Dubai, India will be facing Pakistan in a high-stakes clash on February 23 and New Zealand on March 2. The Indian team will

heavily depend on their batting prowess as stars like Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli will be expected to lead from the front. While Jasprit Bumrah's absence has been a blow, the squad does have Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana as the pacers and a strong



spin unit. ICC Champions Trophy 2025: Full Coverage With the favourites tag firmly on them, let's have a look at how well India have performed in the mini World Cup. India's history at the Champions Trophy India have won the Champions Trophy twice and made it to 4 finals in the 8 editions of the

Champions Trophy so far. India were joint-winners with Sri Lanka in 2002 and then defeated England to win the title under MS Dhoni in 2013. Bangladesh (1998):

The Champions Trophy started off as the ICC Knockout trophy with teams getting eliminated after a loss. India had a great start to the campaign as they defeated Australia in their opening match by 44 runs. However, the Mohammed Azharuddin-led side would lose to West Indies in the semi-final by 6 wickets.

Kenya (2000): The ICC Knockout 2000 saw the Indian team put on a sensational display in the competition. After defeating Kenya in the pre-quarterfinal, India went on to defeat Australia thanks to a fine performance from a young Yuvraj Singh, who scored a brilliant 86, which helped India score 265 for 9. Australia were bundled out for 245 runs as India progressed to the semi-finals.

India defeated South Africa to reach the final, where they would fall to New Zealand as Chris Cairns 102 would eclipse the 117 scored by Sourav Ganguly.

Champions Trophy: Who said what as Pakistan capitulate against New Zealand in Karachi

New Delhi Pakistan were hammered by 60 runs in their opening match of the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 on Wednesday, February 19 at National Stadium, Karachi. The hosts were off to a disastrous start in their chase, having been reduced to 22/2 in ten overs. Pakistan were eventually bundled out for 260 in 47.2 overs, losing the game by 60 runs as they got their title defence off to a miserable start.

Following his team's hammering, captain Mohammad Rizwan rued the loss of momentum in the middle overs, crediting Tom Latham and Will Young for their game-changing partnership. He also mentioned how Fakhar Zaman's inability to come out to bat in his original position derailed their chase right from the get-go.

PAK vs NZ Champions Trophy 2025 Highlights! think they made a very good target, we didn't expect they would get 320. We thought around 260 when we took early wickets. The Will Young-Latham partnership was crucial. We tried, but they

played very smartly and that's why they got to that total. The pitch was not easy to bat early on, but Will Young and Latham's innings were crucial. Our execution in the end overs was not good, and that's why they



made that score," said Rizwan in the post-match presentation. "[On Fakhar's injury] Let's see what the result from the [scan] is. We lost momentum twice, first in the death overs and then in the powerplay with the bat. Losing Fakhar Zaman [as opener] was crucial. We didn't want to put pressure on ourselves by thinking we are defending

champions. This match is gone, and the next match is another normal match for us," he added.

On the other hand, New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner credited Pakistan for bowling well in the middle stages and praised Tom Latham (118*) and Will Young (107) for their game-changing knocks. The duo added 118 runs (126 balls) for the fourth wicket after the Kiwis were on 73/3. Latham also got involved in a 125-run partnership off just 74 balls with Glenn Phillips (61 off 39) to propel his team's score to 320. "I thought Pakistan bowled well, even through the middle stage, but the well Young and Latham rotated the strike and got the odd boundary really set us up. We were thinking 260-280, but it shows what you can do if you have a platform and wickets in hand. After the score we got, the first 10 overs with the ball were outstanding, the way our new-ball guys were able to smash a length. We built the run-rate pressure and were able to chip wickets throughout.



defending champions after they won the title when the tournament took place in 2017 in England and Wales.

SCENARIOS: HOW CAN PAKISTAN QUALIFY

Lose both the remaining games - knocked out
Win one of the two remaining games - Depend on other teams and Net Run Rate to progress.
Win both of their remaining games - Likely to qualify, Net Run Rate might come in the picture. Pakistan's next match is against arch-rivals India on Sunday, February 23 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. They will face Bangladesh in their final league game in Rawalpindi on February 27.

Pakistan stutter in Champions Trophy opener After being asked to bat first, New Zealand put up a massive score of 320 for five on the board.

Champions Trophy 2025: India should take the punt with Rishabh Pant over KL Rahul

Champions Trophy 2025: The Indian team management maybe backing KL Rahul as the No.1 wicketkeeper at the moment but the champions trophy could be the right platform to take the punt with Rishabh Pant.

New Delhi When Rishabh Pant made his long-awaited return from injury, a lot was expected from the wicketkeeper-batter. Many were wondering which Pant we would be getting as he had returned after a life-altering car accident. But the 27-year-old remained the same and stuck with his principles. A great return in the IPL 2024 season saw Pant score 446 runs in 13 matches at an average of 40.55 and a strike-rate of more than 155. He carried

this form into the T20 World Cup 2024, where he played a role in India's triumph. The return to Test cricket has seen Pant score 677 runs since the beginning of 2024, with a hundred and 4 fifties to his name. However, in ODIs, Pant still remains an enigma. He has played only one match since his return and he scored just 6 runs off 9 balls against Sri Lanka. Since then, KL Rahul has been keeping wickets for India with Gautam Gambhir even extending his support for the 32-year-old.

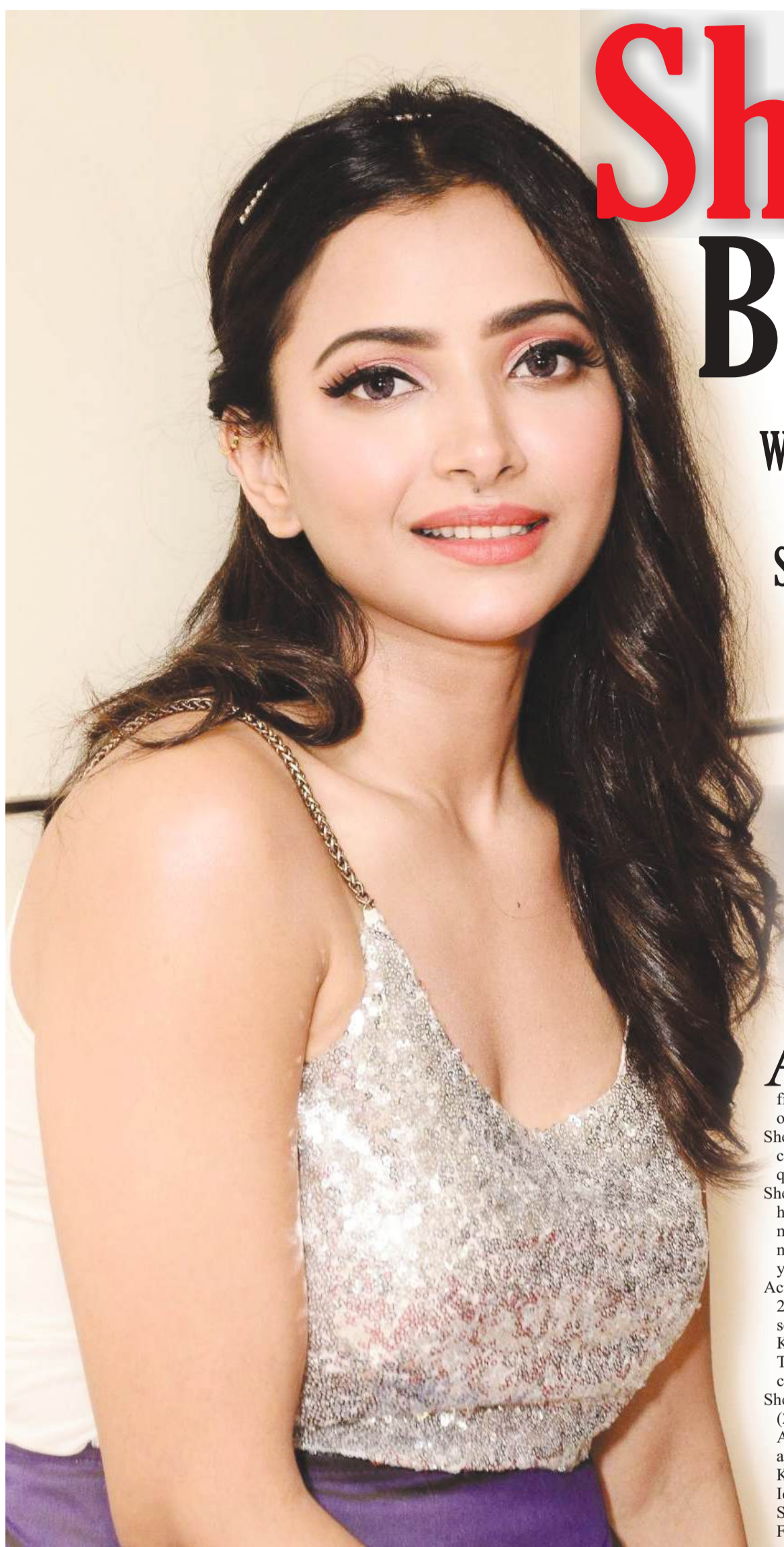
Champions Trophy: Full coverage KL is our No 1 wicketkeeper and this is what I can say at the moment. Rishabh Pant will get his chance but at the moment it is KL who has done well and we cannot play two wicketkeeper-batters," said Gambhir after the England series. While the support has been great for Rahul, the returns haven't really justified his inclusion in the side. Since the start of 2024, Rahul has scored just 83 runs in 5 matches at an average of 16.60. His



best score of 40 came in the final match of the series against England. So it is time that India takes the punt with Pant in the all-important Champions Trophy ahead of Rahul?
Pant has the X-factor "He's an X-factor player. So, when you are looking at having an X-factor player in your

team, it's going to be an added advantage all the time. "That's why the expectations are on him, and he's also determined. When you're looking at him and being part of the team, obviously he's there to make it count and have that impact," said Zaheer Khan.

And this is what India might need in the Champions Trophy. Pant will come in at No.5 in a situation when India may need him to play a counter-attacking knock or when they need the 27-year-old to give some momentum to the side. With an array of unorthodox shots and raw power, Pant can easily put the pressure back on the opposition. Rahul, for his elegance and class, has sort of failed in doing this ever since that forgetful day for him during the World Cup 2023 final. Pant has come in at the No.5 spot 7 times in his career and has scored 310 runs at an average of 44.28 and a stunning strike-rate of 136.56.



Shweta Basu Prasad

Was Bullied On Telugu Film Set, Says Hero Would Mess Up Scenes: 'Something I Have No Control Over'

Actress Shweta Basu Prasad shared her experience of being bullied on a Telugu film set due to her height, despite her successful career in Telugu, Hindi, and Tamil cinema.

Actress Shweta Basu Prasad recently shared her experience of being bullied on a Telugu film set due to her height. In an interview with Bollywood Bubble, she revealed that during the filming of a particular Telugu movie, the crew frequently commented on her stature, as her co-actor was significantly taller. She said, "There was this one Telugu film I was doing and that entire crew every day would remind me of my height. Because my hero was quite tall, I'm 5'2, and my actor was 5'11 or almost 6 feet tall." She went on to explain, "He would mess up every scene, give retakes, him being Telugu can't speak the language. Even I couldn't but I was managing. And I'm like, you're telling me about something that I have no control over. It's something that genetically aya hain (it's genetic), you manage no. It's the only set where I was really bullied, very bad." Actress Shweta Basu Prasad began her career in Telugu cinema with the 2008 film Kotha Bangaru Lokam. Over the years, she has appeared in several Telugu films, including Ride (2009), Kasko (2009), Kalavar King (2010), Priyudu (2011), and Genius (2012). Her most recent Telugu film was Vijetha (2016). In addition to her work in Telugu cinema, Shweta has also acted in Hindi and Tamil films. She began her acting career at the age of 11, debuting in the film Makdee (2002), where she portrayed a dual role and earned the National Film Award for Best Child Artist. Following her success in Makdee, Shweta appeared in the television series Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii and Karishma Kaa Karishma. In 2005, she starred in the critically acclaimed film Iqbal, portraying the character of Khadija, which garnered her the Best Supporting Actress Award at the 5th Karachi International Film Festival.

Karan Johar Says 'If There's Conviction, Logic Won't Matter' In Films, Cites Gadar: 'Ek Hand Pump Se Agar...'



Karan Johar, a prominent figure in Bollywood, has directed and produced many successful films. Known for his romantic comedies and family dramas, he recently discussed the importance of conviction in filmmaking. He spoke of how unwavering belief in one's story and characters can make audiences accept even the most improbable scenarios. KJo cited directors like SS Rajamouli, Sandeep Reddy Vanga, and Anil Sharma as examples of filmmakers whose strong conviction has led to successful films. During a conversation with Komal Nahta, Johar was asked, "When logic takes a backseat, what takes the front?" Without hesitation, he replied, "Conviction." He elaborated, "It is very important. If you look at the best filmmakers and try to understand their journey, their greatest or most successful films are a result of conviction. If there's conviction, logic won't matter."

Karan explained that films like SS Rajamouli's RRR and Anil Sharma's Gadar 2 succeeded not because they adhered to logic, but because of the directors' strong belief in their stories. He said, "Take Rajamouli sir's movies, for instance. Where can you spot logic? You can only see conviction in his films. When that conviction comes to the forefront, even the audience will believe you."

He went on to add, "This holds true for all major blockbusters, including Animal, RRR and Gadar. They were all driven by conviction. If a person is shown beating up 1,000 people with just a handpump, it's because of conviction. Anil Sharma believes Sunny Deol can do that, and as a result, the audience believes it too. And in Gadar 2, the moment he touches someone, they run away. That's pure faith."

Karan Johar said that filmmakers should embrace their vision without self-doubt or overthinking audience expectations. "More often than not, you end up doubting yourself, second-guessing the audience and thinking too much about logic. That won't help you in any way," he said.

Prateik Babbar's Wife Priya On Not Inviting Raj Babbar And Family To Their Wedding: 'His Aunts Who Raised Him...'



Congratulations are in order as Prateik Babbar has tied the knot with Priya Banerjee. After dating each other for a long time, they got married in an intimate wedding ceremony held at Prateik's late mother Smita Patil's house in Bandra, Mumbai. Surrounded by their closest family and friends, the wedding was a heartfelt celebration of love, culture, and togetherness. The newlywed couple shared some dreamy pictures from the traditional wedding ceremony, that left fans mesmerized.

In a chat with HT, Priya expressed that being married to Prateik doesn't feel different, as they've been together for almost five years. She said, "Honestly, being married to Prateik and being married doesn't feel any different. We have been together for a very long time. It has been almost five years, we have lived under the same roof. More than that I feel like I have known him forever. It feels the same." Prateik went on to add, "It feels like I am doing this for the thousandth time. This is like another lifetime, another universe. I feel like I marry her in every lifetime and every universe and this is another one and there are many more to go."

Prateik Babbar and Priya Banerjee's intimate wedding on February 14 led to speculation about the absence of Prateik's father, Raj Babbar, and his half-siblings, Aarya and Juhi Babbar. Priya clarified that all important family members were present. She said, "There was absolutely no family member who was missing from the wedding or our celebrations. I don't know why there are rumours that 'family members' were absent. Our families were there including my parents, his aunts who raised him, his nana-nani and everyone who mattered and his family was with us. And there was absolutely nobody who is family was missing."



Shakira

Hospitalised, Cancels Peru Event Last Minute Due To Abdominal Pain

Colombian singer-songwriter Shakira recently embarked on her Las Mujeres Ya No Lloran world tour. However, it took an unfortunate turn when she ended up being hospitalised due to an abdominal issue. Due to this, Shakira was forced to postpone her concert in Peru. Later, the 48-year-old singer took to social media to inform everyone about the same, saying that she had to visit the emergency room suddenly and was still under medical care. In a message posted on X (formerly known as Twitter), Shakira expressed regret over the cancellation. "I am sorry to inform you all that last night I had to go to the ER for an abdominal issue and am currently hospitalised," she wrote. Doctors advised her to avoid performing, as she wasn't in the right condition to take the stage. Shakira expressed her deep disappointment over the postponement, saying she had been eagerly looking forward to performing for her fans in Peru. She reassured them that her team and the concert promoters were already working on a new date. "I love you all, and I appreciate your understanding," she said. Despite the setback, the Hips Don't Lie singer remains hopeful about returning to the stage soon. She expressed optimism about being discharged by Monday and resuming her tour. If all goes well, she is set to perform in Peru that same evening before heading to Colombia for a series of shows. Shakira kicked off her tour in Rio de Janeiro just days after winning a Grammy for Best Latin Pop Album, which she dedicated to migrants in the U.S. facing deportation under President Donald Trump. She also took the stage at the Grammys earlier this month. One of the most celebrated Latin artists of all time, Shakira is set to perform nearly 50 shows across Latin America by the end of June, with more dates scheduled in the U.S. and Canada.

